

## REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending in this application. Claims 2, 4-7, and 13-16 are amended. Claims 1, 3 and 17 are canceled. Claims 18-39 are new. No new matter is being added.

The Examiner required submission of new formal drawings. Formal drawings are included with this Amendment. The Examiner is asked to substitute the enclosed formal drawings for the drawings previously on file.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bates. Although claim 1 is canceled, Applicants note the following in order to obviate a similar rejection of the claims now pending. Specifically, Bates does not anticipate those claims. For example, claim 18 recites:

A method for threading e-mail messages, the method comprising:  
receiving a first e-mail message;  
determining that the first e-mail message is related to a second e-mail message,  
the second e-mail message received previously to the first e-mail message;  
creating an e-mail thread; and  
associating the e-mail thread with the first e-mail and the second e-mail, the  
thread additionally including a persistent thread header, the thread header  
having information derived from attributes of at least one of the e-mails.

The claimed invention enables the creation of a thread from a set of e-mail messages. When an e-mail is received that is related to an e-mail previously received, a thread is created, and the e-mail messages are then associated with the new thread, which additionally includes a persistent thread header. This allows related e-mails to be linked together in a thread, while at the same time avoiding unnecessary overhead of creating threads to accommodate single e-mails unrelated to any other.

Bates does not anticipate the claimed invention. Bates proposes a solution for “processing electronic messages on the message board to enable a user to filter or bypass the ‘junk posts’ or other electronic messages unrelated to the topic of discussion on the message board” (col. 1, lines 37-40). At the outset, Applicants note that Bates does not address the organization of e-mail. As noted, Bates is concerned with identifying the relative value of messages posted in a newsgroup. This is an area quite different from organizing e-mails within a conversation. Given that Bates is directed at newsgroups and the claimed invention is directed at e-mail, Bates clearly cannot anticipate the claimed invention.

In addition, even in the context of a newsgroup, Bates does not teach creating a thread in response to determining that a second message is associated with a first. Put differently, a single message in a newsgroup in Bates would still constitute a thread. In the claimed invention, however, a thread is created after a second message is found to be related to a first, and both are then made part of the thread. Thus, even if Bates were related to e-mail instead of newsgroups, it would not anticipate the claimed invention.

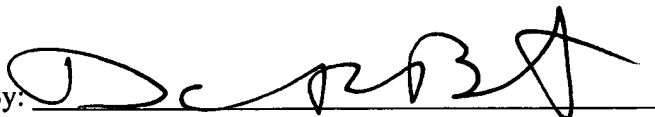
Dependent claims 4-7 and 19-34 depend from patentable claim 18, and therefore derive their patentability both from their dependence on a patentable independent claim and by reciting their own patentable features.

Independent claims 2, 36 and 38 and their respective dependent claims 8-12 and 35; 13-16 and 37; and 39 are patentable over Bates for reasons analogous to claim 18.

Favorable action is solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, mail or electronic mail in order to advance prosecution. Applicants acknowledge that a copy of any electronic mail communications will be made of record in the application file per MPEP § 502.03.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace Figs. 1-10 with the enclosed drawings, which are located on sheets 1-9.